



CREATE A MASTERPIECE OF ARTS AND CRAFTS SAFETY

The City of San Diego Household Hazardous Materials Program

Artists strive to beautify their environment by creating works of art. Unfortunately, many arts and crafts supplies can be dangerous to people and the environment if improperly handled. Whether you’re an artist by profession or just enjoy it as a relaxing pastime, you should be aware of the hazards inherent in your craft.





Follow Important Safety Rules

- Read the labels.**
Many artists are unaware that some of the products they use contain hazardous chemicals or pollutants. If you are unfamiliar with the ingredients or materials in a product, consult a salesperson or request a Material Safety Data Sheet on the product if available.
- Use the safest materials possible.**
Read publications on your craft which keep you informed on safer substitutes and less-hazardous alternatives. Be careful when working with wood or metal materials that are not purchased in a store. Scavenged materials may have been pretreated with chemicals.
- Use proper personal protective equipment.**
When working with paints, wood and metals, it’s important to remember to wear the proper personal protective equipment such as neoprene gloves or heavy work gloves, goggles, a

ventilation mask and a plastic apron. This equipment will protect you from dusts, fibers, fumes, vapors and gases as well as skin absorption and accidental ingestion.

- Use good ventilation.**
Work in a well-ventilated location such as an open garage or backyard area when working with crafts that have toxic fumes. If you must work inside, provide local exhaust such as a hood or spray booth which vents to the outside. Just opening windows does not always provide the best ventilation because the toxic fumes can be blown back into your face. Most air conditioning systems are not adequate since they simply recirculate air.
- Keep your work area clean.**
Clean your work area thoroughly by wet mopping or vacuuming for dusts and leftover materials. Dust and wipe off counters and work benches. Avoid eating, drinking or smoking in your work area. Never store food products or food containers near hazardous materials.
- Children’s safety.**
Keep children under 12 away from hazardous products. Teach them these safety tips and provide them with the safest materials possible. Most children over 12 can understand and consistently follow safety instructions.



	SOURCE	HAZARD	PREVENTION	ALTERNATIVES
Painting, Silkscreening 	Solvent-based coatings, heavy metals in pigments	Flammable, toxic when inhaled	Avoid skin and eye contact, work in a well-ventilated area, don’t smoke in work area	Use water-based coatings and inks
Ceramics 	Heavy metals including lead, arsenic, and chromium	Heavy metals are toxic and can enter the body via ingestion, inhalation or skin absorption	Work in a well-ventilated area, wear protective clothing, wash hands after craft activity	Choose glazes without heavy metals
Stained Glass	Lead solder fumes	Toxic when inhaled	Work in a well-ventilated area	
Metal Work Sculptures	Welding fumes	Toxic when inhaled	Work in a well-ventilated area	
Wood-Working	Solvents, stains and varnish, paint strippers, caustic strippers	Flammable, corrosive, toxic when inhaled	Avoid skin and eye contact, work in a well-ventilated area, don’t smoke in work area	Use water-based stains and cleaners
Glass Etching	Acids	Readily absorbed into skin with delayed tissue damage	Avoid skin and eye contact, wear protective clothing, follow label instructions carefully	Mechanical etching
Fiberglassing, Surfboard Repair, Resin Molding	Resins, polyester, epoxy, acrylic, urethane, solvents	Flammable (heat from curing can cause fires), toxic by skin absorption or ingestion	Avoid skin and eye contact, work in a well-ventilated area, don’t smoke in work area	

Be Smart About Disposal

Household hazardous wastes are leftover or unused products containing hazardous chemicals. Improper disposal of hazardous wastes produces a very real threat to individuals and the environment. Hazardous wastes poured down a drain or into a sewer can reach and damage precious waterways, including the ocean. Hazardous wastes discarded in the trash can harm refuse collectors and cause landfill and ground water pollution - and it's against the law!



Changing your buying habits makes an environmental difference. By buying in limited quantities — and using the product up — you reduce the need for hazardous waste disposal. Some hazardous wastes, such as water-based paints, auto batteries, used motor oil and antifreeze, can be recycled. (Recycled latex paint is even used for community graffiti removal programs in San Diego!)

Take household hazardous wastes including paints, solvents, varnishes, acids, flammables, acrylics, and resins to a citywide household haz-

ardous waste collection event. Household hazardous wastes not eligible for collection events are asbestos, compressed gas cylinders, explosives (such as flares and ammunition), radioactive materials, PCBs (such as ballasts) or biomedical waste (such as syringes). Waste generated from businesses is not accepted.

To transport waste to a collection event, leave all products in their original containers. **Do not mix them together.** Make sure they are properly sealed and will not leak. You may bring up to five gallons or 50 pounds of waste at any one time. Use your best judgment to estimate these amounts.

For information on collection events, call the Household Hazardous Materials Program Hotline at **235-2111**. For information on used oil recycling options, call the Used Oil Infoline at **235-2105**.

Sponsored by
The City of San Diego Environmental Services and Water Departments and the California Integrated Waste Management Board.



THE HOME ENVIRONMENT No. 8 OF A SERIES



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Household Hazardous Materials
Program Hotline..... **235-2111**
(All other areas)..... 1-(800) 246-1233
Used Oil Infoline..... **235-2105**
Recycling Hotline: Paper, Glass, Cans..... **467-0903**
(All other areas)..... 1-(800) 237-2583
Paint for Graffiti Removal
Graffiti Control Hotline..... 527-3431
(All other areas)..... 1-(800) 246-1233

Health Information



Emergencies..... **911**
Poison Control Center..... **543-6000**
Indoor Air Pollution:
American Lung Association..... 297-3901

Reporting Hazards

Air Emissions:
Air Pollution Control District..... 694-3340
Oil-Burning, Smoking Vehicles..... 1-(800)-28-SMOKE
Illegal dumping of hazardous waste:
County Dept. of Environmental Health..... 338-2284
Storm Water Pollution Hotline..... 533-3793
Pesticides:
County Agricultural Commissioner..... 694-2739

The City of San Diego
Household Hazardous Materials Program
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